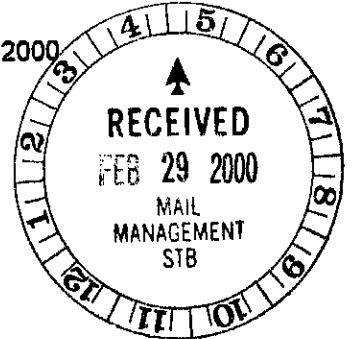




General Manager
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Directeur général
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2701 PROM RIVERSIDE BUREAU N0129
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February 22, 2000



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
USA

Dear Sir:

Canada Post is an organization that is a major user of rail and other transportation services in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination, or any merger for that matter, is good for shippers. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits.

Service, not timing, of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is the central issue for our company. Recent mergers have failed because of poor execution not because this is a bad time for mergers in the rail industry. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service.

We trust that the Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process.

We do wonder whether the opposition to the use of the Surface Transportation Board process is an effort to limit strong competition rather than a protection for shippers.

Sincerely,

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary
FEB 29 2000
Part of
Jean Benard

In Business to Serve / En affaires pour vous servir

613 734 8986 P.01/01

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